GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:379
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2016
Mid-Day Meal Scheme
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Singh Shri Satya Pal

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of schools have implemented the Mid-Day Meal Scheme through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
(c) the mechanism in place to monitor the functioning of such NGOs across the country;
(d) whether the cases of deficiency of services or poor quality of food on part of NGOs have come to the notice of the Government across the country during each of the last three years and the current year; and
(e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SH.PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)
(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the table of the House.
Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 379 for 12.12.2016 raised by Shri Sanjay Dhotre and Dr. Satyapal Singh regarding Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
(a) & (b): The Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented in partnership with the States/UTs. The overall responsibility for providing cooked and nutritious mid-day meal to the eligible children lies with the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Apart from school-based kitchens, the MDM guidelines provide for Centralized kitchens run by NGOs for urban areas where there is space constraint. As per information available, the total number of schools covered by NGOs under Mid-Day Meal Scheme is 42383 which is 3.68 % of the total number of schools (11.50 lakh) covered under the scheme. The State/UT-wise number of schools covered by NGOs is given at Annexure-I.
(c): The Government has adopted an elaborate monitoring mechanism at Central, State and District levels to check quality, safety and hygiene of mid-day meals and also to monitor the functioning of NGOs. At national level, an Empowered Committee, headed by Minister of HRD, a National level Steering-cum-Monitoring Committee (NSMC) and Programme Approval Board (PAB), both headed by Secretary (School Education & Literacy), evaluate the performance of each State and UT in implementation of the Scheme and suggest measures for its smooth and effective implementation. At the State level, a State level Steering−cum-Monitoring Committee headed by the State Chief Secretary and, at District Level, a District Level Committee under the Chairpersonship of senior-most Member of Parliament of Lok Sabha of the district monitors the implementation of the scheme in the concerned District. At local level Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, member of Village Education Committees (VECs), Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs), School Management Committees (SMCs) are required to monitor the regularity and wholesomeness of the mid-day meal served to children, cleanliness in cooking and serving of the meal, timeliness in procurement of good quality ingredients, fuel, etc., implementation of variety in menu so as to make it attractive to children and ensuring social and gender equity on a daily basis. In addition, the Centre constitutes Joint Review Missions (JRMs) consisting of educational and nutritional experts, which review the scheme through field visits from time to time. The reports of JRMs are shared with concerned States/UTs for taking corrective action on the findings.
(d) & (e): The States/UTs-wise details of cases of deficiency of services or poor quality of food on part of NGOs during the last three years and current year and the action taken/being taken thereon by the concerned State Governments are given at Annexure-II.